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REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Letter dated 9 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 8 September 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continuation of American acts of aggression against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document under item 11 of the provisional agenda of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Saeed Hamid HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/51/150.

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Annex

Letter dated 8 September 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter to you dated 4 September 1996, I should like to draw your attention to the continuing policy of aggression against the people of Iraq being pursued by the Government of the United States of America. American armed forces have continued their hostile operations, as detailed below:

1. At 2045 hours on 4 September 1996, aggressive American forces launched their missiles unsuccessfully against a number of military installations and populated civilian areas. Several of these missiles fell on the capital, Baghdad.

2. On 5 September 1996, American B80 aircraft supported by two AWACS early warning aircraft carried out a hostile aerial sortie over the north of Iraq, taking off in Turkey, and over the south of the country, taking off from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

3. On 7 September 1996 American B96 aircraft which had taken off from Saudi territory, supported by an AWACS early warning aircraft, carried out a hostile aerial sortie.

Iraq has consistently rejected the two so-called no-fly zones imposed in the north and the south of Iraq by the United States of America and the United Kingdom. These two Governments had no recourse to the principles of international law when they established the air-exclusion zones in the north and south of Iraq. They were given no authority by the Security Council, and their actions were not pursuant to any Security Council resolutions. The two countries took the unlawful decision independently, relying on brute force and the hostile use of military force to violate the sovereignty, regional security and territorial integrity of Iraq, and in order to threaten the safety and security of the Iraqi people and the integrity of their homeland.

While urging the United Nations to shoulder the responsibilities delegated to it under the Charter of the United Nations and do whatever is necessary to put an end to this aggression, the Iraqi Government holds the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom fully accountable for the consequences of their hostile acts. Furthermore, the Iraqi Government reserves the right to seek compensation, and its legitimate right to take any steps it deems necessary to defend its territorial sovereignty and integrity and the safety of its people.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document under item 11 of the provisional agenda of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq